



# 2022 Community Update - from the Hump Ridge Great Walk Project

Kia ora! Welcome to the second annual community information session. It is an important opportunity for the team developing the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track to Great Walk status to share project progress, key milestones and achievement as well as looking ahead. Please take this newsletter away with you.

## Notable Milestones since October 2021

### A significant day

On a sunny autumnal Sunday in early April, a Whakatau Te Whenua to settle the land, bless the track, and clear the way for construction to begin, was held by mana whenua mana moana of the rohe, Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka.

Ollie Church (Ōraka Aparima, *left*) and Harold Thomas (Rowallan Alton Inc., *middle*) shared the honour of turning the whenua on Rowallan Alton land, where the Hump Ridge Track begins.



Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka Hākui Muriel Johnstone (*right*) shared, in the joint media release (dated 4 April [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)), that the Whakatau Te Whenua acknowledged the many tūpuna (ancestors) who traversed these lands and waterways over the centuries, lived on the whenua, and gathered treasured mahika kai from the mountains to the sea - ki uta ki tai. "In gathering here, we are reminded of one very ancient aranui (track) in this rohe (tribal area), which travelled up and over the vast, long ridge known as Okaka, and onwards to the many lakes and mountains throughout Fiordland".

## Detailed Business Case approval

In June 2022 the detailed business case that confirmed the project budget and expected work was approved. Key details are:

- The project capital expenditure budget will be \$7.9m
- The project will deliver a Great Walk at the Hump Ridge location by upgrading the track surface and structures
- This includes a new swing bridge at the Edwin Burn to bypass the Edwin Burn Viaduct. Note: the viaduct is not being removed or is it unsafe - this bridge will provide an alternative crossing should the viaduct become unusable
- The work listed also includes an extension of carparking at Rarakau and an entrance waharoa (gateway), shelter and additional toilets
- The high-level experience design, which includes storytelling and interpretation, is approved for detailed development
- The work on the detailed assessment for the protection of the heritage and cultural values/impacts for the track and environs, including a conservation heritage plan for Port Craig
- The main construction phase will begin mid-late 2022 and continue well into 2023
- The project is forecast for completion in late 2023.

## Track Section D upgrade work

Section D is the piece of track from the Edwin Burn Viaduct for 1.5km towards Okaka Lodge. Track repair construction work got underway in May but then stopped mid-winter.

There is only approx. 10 days' work remaining to complete the track upgrade.

## The overall Track upgrade work

The 61 km track has been divided into sections. This will allow the construction contracting teams to undertake the track upgrade work concurrently.

In August the contractual agreements, planning and scheduling of all approved project works with successful contractors was completed. The Rarakau car park design works were completed.

Fig 1. Hump Ridge Track Upgrade work mapped out



The contractors will be responsible for managing the worksite, including visitor safety through the sections of track under repair. Track users & visitors are asked to obey all signage and instructions and expect minor delays from time to time.

Information will be also shared by the Hump Ridge Track Operations Office and on the DOC website.

## What we're still working on

The detailed development of the experience design plan for the storytelling and interpretation packages.

The work on negotiating legal easements with landowners to secure public access.

Sharing of project news via our "It's Happening" newsletter and local news magazines like the Western Wanderer and Te Anau Trader.

## Want to know more?

For information or to book/walk the **Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track** - please contact the Track Operations Office directly via [www.humpridgetrack.co.nz](http://www.humpridgetrack.co.nz)

**Project Webpage:** Stay informed with the facts and news via [www.doc.govt.nz/hump-ridge-great-walk-project](http://www.doc.govt.nz/hump-ridge-great-walk-project)

**Project Email:** Get in touch to ask questions or to be added to the newsletter distribution list [HumpRidgeGWP@doc.govt.nz](mailto:HumpRidgeGWP@doc.govt.nz)

**Media enquiries:** please direct to [media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:media@doc.govt.nz)

*He rau ringa, e oti ai  
With many hands, the job  
will be finished*